

Application No. 09/822,433
Amendment Dated: October 7, 2004
Reply to Office Action of: April 7, 2004

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 56 – 63 and 65 – 85 remain in the application.

Claims 56 and 76 have been amended as suggested by the Examiner to correct informalities.

The Examiner objected to claims 75 and 81 under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph. Dimensionality in inches is essentially disclosed by the original application No. 09/008,565 filed April 16, 1998, page 15, lines 3 – 5. A person skilled in the art in North America would understand 10/1000 thick (commonly referred to as 10 mils) as referring to inches. This is a common designation for the thicknesses of sheet materials. Furthermore, the only reasonable unit for “10/1000” is inches since this is a way of expressing mils. The only other common unit of measurement is the metric system. It is already a decimal system and so such units would never be expressed as fractions of 1000. If necessary, Applicant is prepared to bring forth an affidavit to that effect from a person skilled in the art.

The Examiner objected to claims 84 and 85 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. The method in claims 84 and 85 includes a “second anchor sheet having an underside substantially covered in loops of the attachment system”. Support for this may be found, for example, at paragraph 96 of the published application and Figure 29. An example of the second anchor sheet is labeled with the reference numeral 177. As can be seen, the second anchor sheet may have loops on a side thereof.

Independent claim 56 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 64, *i.e.* that the anchor sheet is “plastic”. Since claim 64 has been allowed by the Examiner, the amended claim 56 and all claims depending upon it (e.g., claims 57 – 63, 66 – 73, 76 and 77) should now be allowable.

In addition the Examiner has also indicated that claim 74, wherein the anchor sheet has a cushion on an underside thereof, is allowable. Accordingly, claim 74 has been combined with unamended claim 56 so that it is now written in independent form.

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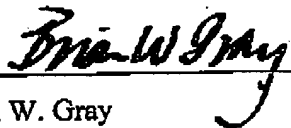
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The Examiner rejected independent claim 78. The method of independent claim 78 calls for a cushion on the underside of the anchor sheet. This cushion is not disclosed in cited Patent Nos. 5,060,443 or 4,974,384. Furthermore, claim 78 is similar in scope to claim 74, which the Examiner indicated is allowable. Hence claim 78, and all claims dependent thereon (e.g., 79 and 82) should be allowable.

The Examiner has rejected independent claim 84. This claim includes a method that calls for an intermediate sheet on which the decorative covering is placed. As noted above, such sheet is disclosed, for example, in Figure 29 and paragraph 96 of the published application. Such method is not disclosed or suggested in the cited Patent Nos. 5,060,443 or 4,974,384. Hence, claim 84 and all claims dependent thereon (e.g., 85) should be allowed.

New claim 86 has been added to provide the Applicant with a scope of protection commensurate with the disclosure. Claim 86 is similar to claim 56 but includes polymer anchor sheets. Support for this feature may be found, for example, at paragraph 74 of the published application.

Respectfully submitted,



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